

In the Claims:

1. (Original) An electronic component comprising:
 - a wafer;
 - a plurality of bond pads disposed on the wafer;
 - a plurality of functional 3-D structures disposed on the wafer, each functional 3-D structure including a compliant base element;
 - a plurality of reroute traces, each reroute trace being electrically connected to one of the bond pads and extending onto a surface of one of the functional 3-D structures; and
 - a plurality of selected 3-D structures disposed on the wafer to provide a mechanical reinforcement, wherein at least some of the selected 3-D structures have a greater mechanical load-bearing capacity than some of the functional 3-D structures.
2. (Original) The component of claim 1 wherein each reroute trace comprises a copper/nickel layer that is covered by a gold layer.
3. (Original) The component of claim 1 wherein the selected 3-D structures have a lower degree of compressibility than the functional 3-D structures.
4. (Currently Amended) The component of claim 1 wherein the selected 3-D structures have a slightly greater height than the functional 3-D structures.
5. (Currently Amended) The component of claim 1 wherein each of the selected 3-D structures includes a compliant base element that has a significantly greater volume than the compliant base element of the functional 3-D structures.

6. (Original) The component of claim 1 wherein each of the selected 3-D structures is protected by a metal cap.
7. (Original) The component of claim 1 wherein each of the selected 3-D structures is surrounded by a metallic supporting ring.
8. (Original) The component of claim 1 wherein the selected 3-D structures are arranged in a regularly distributed manner in an edge region of the wafer.-
9. (Original) The component of claim 1 wherein the selected 3-D structures are arranged in a regularly distributed manner over the wafer.
10. (Original) The component of claim 1 wherein the selected 3-D structures are able to be electrically bonded.
11. (Original) An electronic component comprising:
 - a wafer;
 - a plurality of bond pads disposed on the wafer;
 - a plurality of functional 3-D structures disposed on the wafer, each functional 3-D structure including a compliant base element;
 - a plurality of reroute traces, each reroute trace being electrically connected to one of the bond pads and extending onto a surface of one of the functional 3-D structures;
 - a plurality of other 3-D structures disposed on the wafer to provide a mechanical reinforcement, each of the other 3-D structures having a support structure formed upon a surface of the 3-D structure.

12. (Currently Amended) The electronic component of claim 11 wherein the support structure comprises a metal cap disposed over an entire upper surface of the other 3-D structures.
13. (Currently Amended) The electronic component of claim 11 wherein the support structure comprises a metal ring formed along side surfaces of the other 3-D structures.
14. (Currently Amended) The electronic component of claim 13 ~~claim 11~~ wherein the metal ring is not disposed on any portion of an upper surface of the other 3-D structures.
15. (Currently Amended) The electronic component of claim 11 wherein the support structure is formed from the same material as the reroute traces.
16. (Original) The component of claim 11 wherein each reroute trace comprises a copper/nickel layer that is covered by a gold layer.
17. (Original) The component of claim 11 wherein the other 3-D structures have a lower degree of compressibility than the functional 3-D structures.
18. (Original) The component of claim 11 wherein the other 3-D structures have a greater height than the functional 3-D structures.
19. (Currently Amended) The component of claim 11 wherein each of the other 3-D structures includes a compliant base element that has a ~~significantly~~ greater volume than the compliant base element of the functional 3-D structures.

20. (Original) The component of claim 11 wherein the other 3-D structures are arranged in a regularly distributed manner in an edge region of the wafer.

21. (Original) The component of claim 11 wherein the other 3-D structures are arranged in a regularly distributed manner over the wafer.

22-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) An electronic component comprising:

a wafer;

a plurality of bond pads disposed on the wafer;

a plurality of functional 3-D structures disposed on the wafer, each functional 3-D structure including a compliant base element and having a first height;

a plurality of reroute traces, each reroute trace being electrically connected to one of the bond pads and extending onto a surface of one of the functional 3-D structures;

a plurality of other 3-D structures disposed on the wafer to provide a mechanical reinforcement, each of the other 3-D structures having a second height that is greater than the first height.

29. (New) The electronic component of claim 28 wherein the other 3-D structures include a metal cap disposed over an entire upper surface of the other 3-D structures.

30. (New) The electronic component of claim 28 wherein the other 3-D structures include a metal ring formed along side surfaces of the other 3-D structures.

31. (New) The electronic component of claim 28 wherein the other 3-D structures have a lower degree of compressibility than the functional 3-D structures.

32. (New) The electronic component of claim 28 wherein the other 3-D structures are arranged in a regularly distributed manner in an edge region of the wafer.

33. (New) The electronic component of claim 28 wherein the other 3-D structures are arranged in a regularly distributed manner over the wafer.